



## ANNUAL REPORT 2016



### Mission Statement

*Our mission is to promote a goal of self-sufficiency by broadening the minds of children, revitalizing communities, and assisting families and children in need through the provision of services and to coordinate available federal, state, local and private resources.*



## A Message from Adrian Fassett Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

The Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. (EOC) works to build a secure and more-promising future for more than 100,000 Suffolk County residents living in poverty.

2016 proudly marks our 49th year of service. We continue to promote self-sufficiency by broadening the minds of children, revitalizing communities, and assisting families and children in need. We accomplish this by providing an array of services – and by managing a range of resources from both public-sector and private sources.

Among the 2016 highlights, we became the state's first suburban county to offer low-income defendants access to an innovative Charitable Bail Fund. Under this EOC initiative, many misdemeanor defendants who cannot provide bail money will be able to tap into a revolving bail fund. This will allow them to maintain employment, continue to attend school, and stay in their homes while their cases are adjudicated.

2016 was also a milestone year in EOC's efforts to advance educational opportunities for children through our pre-k center in East Patchogue. We moved away from being a Tutor Time franchise and took a more strategic approach by becoming "Way to Grow." It's a move that now allows us to implement a range of exciting program changes that better prepare children for kindergarten.

This year, I also had the privilege of serving as President of the National Community Action Foundation, which ensures that Community Action Agencies around the nation – organizations like EOC – remain an important focus of attention for federal policymakers.

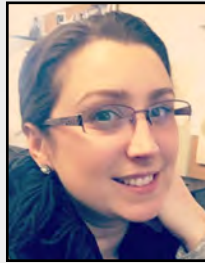
Of course, we continue to broaden housing opportunities, improve public health, boost employability, and assist Veterans. As our constituencies' needs evolve, EOC has always been ready to change with the times – and take on new challenges.

It is a privilege to work with EOC's committed staff, management team, and Board of Directors. 2017 is certain to bring new successes in our drive to enhance the long-term economic security of those county residents who need it the most. 2017 will also mark our 50th year of service.

Sincerely,

**Adrian Fassett**  
Chief Executive Officer

## EOC IS ABOUT PEOPLE



Ignazio and Josephine Arcuri of Lindenhurst were six months behind in their mortgage and were facing eviction. "We were at our lowest point in our lives," they said. "Depressed and scared we didn't know who to turn to or who to trust." Fortunately, they met EOC Foreclosure Prevention Counselor Kristen Bonilla (pictured) who quickly worked with their bank to renegotiate their mortgage to a more manageable payment. Now, a year and a half later, their payments are all up-to-date. They wrote, "You saved our sanity and most of all, you saved our lives."

Bertin Portillo, a non-English speaker with Cerebral Palsy, was having difficulty obtaining a motorized wheelchair through his insurance company. His situation was exacerbated by a car accident that left his leg permanently injured and in pain. EOC Health Homes Care Coordinator Luisa Lojan worked closely with Bertin's orthopedic surgeon to obtain the documentation needed for approval for the wheelchair. Though he could barely walk from the pain, Bertin always kept his appointments and never missed physical therapy sessions. After a few months, he got his motorized wheelchair and is now able to safely navigate his community and perform daily tasks.



After seven years of proud service in the U.S. Army, Fidel Rodriquez was living in a basement apartment with 85 percent of his income going to pay rent and transportation. His situation got even more dire when his hours and pay were cut. Fortunately he was referred to EOC of Suffolk's SSVF program where he received assistance from Veterans Employment Specialist Stacey Ann Gregoire (pictured) with resume writing, interviewing, and employment search skills. The result: he landed a new full-time job. SSVF staff also helped him find a new apartment, working with community partners to fund his security deposit, furniture, as well as food from a local food bank.

*To the Staff at Way to Grow:*

*A sincere and heartfelt thank you to let you know how much we appreciate all that you have done for Alex, who is now entering pre-school. Alex has learned so much — he knows his letters and numbers, he can spell his name, add and subtract, count forwards and backwards, and has begun to read. He has also grown so much socially, emotionally, and behaviorally that I cannot be happier. We are immensely proud of Alex and know he is well-prepared for whatever pre-school has to offer him.*

*Eternally thankful and grateful,*

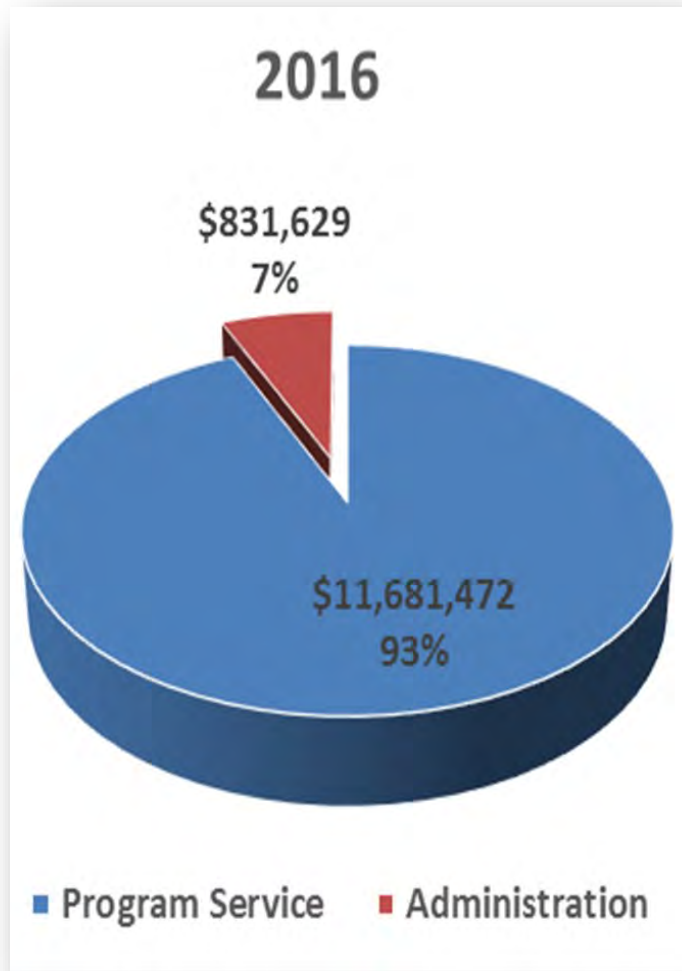
**Chris and Alex Bila**





# FINANCIALS

		2015	2016
Assets	Current	\$2,762,499	\$2,768,074
	Non Current	\$309,084	\$203,892
	Total Assets	\$3,071,583	\$2,971,966
Liabilities & Net Assets	Current Liabilities	\$1,425,185	\$1,099,815
	Non Current	\$36,034	\$0
	Total Liabilities	\$1,461,219	\$1,099,815
	Net Assets	\$1,610,365	\$1,872,151
Revenues	Total Revenues	\$12,203,898	\$12,774,888
Expenses	Personnel & Fringe	\$7,336,753	\$8,177,991
	Non Personnel	\$4,410,436	\$4,335,110
	Total Expenses	\$11,747,189	\$12,513,101
	Excess of Revenue	\$456,709	\$261,787
	Net Assets 1/1	\$1,125,668	\$1,610,364
	Net Assets 12/31	\$1,610,364	\$1,872,151
Expenditures	Program Service	\$10,724,902	\$11,681,472
	Administration	\$1,022,287	\$831,629
	Total Expenses	\$11,747,189	\$12,513,101



## OUR PROGRAMS

- Charitable Bail Fund Program
- Chronic Health Care Coordination
- Community Based Initiative
- Delivery System Reform Initiative Payment (DSRIP)
- Family Development
- HIV/AIDS/HIV(-) Programs
- Housing Programs
- Montauk Child Care
- Sensationally Sweet Gourmet Candy Store
- Services for People with Developmental Disabilities
- SNUG Violence Prevention
- Suffolk Family Court Children's Nursery
- Veteran Services
- Way to Grow Child Care Center
- Wyandanch Weed & Seed
- Youth and Adolescent Services

## ON THE WEB

[www.EOC-Suffolk.com](http://www.EOC-Suffolk.com)  
[www.TheWayToGrow.com](http://www.TheWayToGrow.com)  
[www.MontaukChildCare.com](http://www.MontaukChildCare.com)  
[www.Sensationally-Sweet.com](http://www.Sensationally-Sweet.com)



## 2016 BY THE NUMBERS

- 4,634** Number of families served.
- 4,398** Number of families served living at or below the poverty level.
- 2,036** Number of children under 18 served.
- 1,071** Number of single-parent households served.
- 919** Number of disabled individuals served.
- 692** Number of people served who have attended college.
- 339** Number of families assisted by the food pantry.
- 189** Number of families served that were homeless.
- 50** Number of families that received a Thanksgiving turkey or other holiday assistance.
- 49** Number of teenage parents who were provided baby items.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

#### CHAIRPERSON

**SONDRA PALMER RANDALL**

Public Appointed  
Assemblyman Fred Thiele

#### VICE-CHAIRPERSON

**FREDERICK COMBS**

Community Elected  
Executive Committee

#### TREASURER

**JEROME LINDER**

Private Sector  
Chairperson, Audit/Finance  
Committee

#### SECRETARY

**MARK T. GAGEN, CLU, ChFC**

Community Elected  
Executive Committee

### MEMBERS

**DANIEL COPPOLA**

Private Sector  
Audit/Finance Committee

**WILLIAM C. HUSTON**

Public Appointed  
Mayor Paul Pontieri  
Audit/Finance Committee

**MARY HUTLEY**

Community Elected

**PAUL JOHNSON**

Private Sector  
Executive Committee

**JASON RICHBERG**

Publically Appointed  
Presiding Officer  
Leg. DuWayne Gregory



*Clockwise from top left: 2016 Dellecave Award winners Livingstone V. Harriott, Jr. of Central Islip High School and Nicole Farese of Sayville High School; With support from Home Depot and Earth Rangers, students from our Community Service Program helped build 16 garden beds at the Milton L. Olive Middle School in Wyandanch; Community leaders help cut the ribbon on our Way to Grow child care center; C.E.O. Adrian Fassett is honored by the Bellport-Hagerman-East Patchogue Alliance, and; S.N.U.G. Wyandanch held a peaceful vigil condemning gun violence.*

## 2016 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ We launched an innovative **Charitable Bail Fund Program** to help low-income defendants accused of misdemeanors and where bail is set at \$2,000 or less. This is just the third such program in the state and the first in a suburban community. This program fully aligns with our mission to help keep families intact and to promote self-sufficiency and economic justice.
- ⇒ Our agency launched a **Fiscal Intermediary Services** program for people with developmental disabilities. The program provides administrative and billing support for individuals who have chosen Self-Directed services, which allows them to exercise the maximum amount of control over how they receive supports and services through options they initiate.
- ⇒ EOC of Suffolk, Inc. again hosted the **16th Annual Butch Dellecave Awards** breakfast and ceremony. Named in memory of the legendary educator, official, and coach Gaetano "Butch" Dellecave, the award is a partnership with local schools, the Butch Dellecave Foundation, and Newsday. Students are honored for their athletic, academic, and community-based achievements.
- ⇒ We made the successful transition of our East Patchogue child care center from a Tutor Time franchise to the independent **Way to Grow**. The change allows us to deliver superior services to our children and make greater investments in resources into our school. It also gives us greater flexibility to align our programs with the state's Common Core curriculum.